

Burnt Hill Recreational Trail Plan

DRAFT: Development in progress

10/04/05

Part II: Goals, Objectives and Strategies

The Burnt Hill Recreational Trail Plan is a product of DNR developed in partnership with existing recreation visitors and other interest groups. The recreational trail plan for Burnt Hill addresses the varieties and quantity of public use provided in this working forest setting that are compatible with trust asset management and natural resource protection while offering a primitive and safe recreation experience. The goals, objectives and strategies outlined here will be met to the degree possible dependent upon the availability of staff, funding and other resources.

Goals

Goal 1: Support safety for the public, department employees and volunteers

Goal 2: Ensure department-managed assets, including natural resources, are protected and sustained

Goal 3: Provide an enjoyable recreation experience

Goal 4: Pursue sustainable staff and funding resources for managing recreation and public access, including those achieved through adoption agreements

Objectives and Strategies

The following objectives and strategies work to meet each of the above goals.

Objective A: Accommodate existing types of day-time motorized and non-motorized trail use⁹ and appropriate dispersed activities at 2005 use levels in ways that are mindful of the environment, forest management and neighbors.

Strategies:

- Plan the recreation facilities with the intention that they do not promote increased numbers of recreation visitors
- Designate sustainable trail systems
- Plan an appropriate trailhead parking facility
- Locate, design, build and maintain trails and parking to reduce impacts on the natural environment, such as streams, elk calving areas and other habitats
- Locate trails away from the exterior DNR property boundary to reduce impacts on neighbors such as noise and visibility
- Design, build and maintain trails for technical, low-speed riding
- Group events that are sponsored, advertised or charge fees will first be reviewed by the Burnt Hill stewardship group and DNR, and will be approved by DNR

⁹ Mixed-use trails will accommodate the following types of uses: hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, ATV use, and motorcycle riding. There is also one 4x4 route that other use types may share.

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Objective B: Educate recreation visitors about how to enjoy their experience safely, and how to act responsibly towards the environment, DNR employees, volunteers and neighbors.

Strategies:

- Continue to seek funding for the Education and Enforcement (E&E) program, working to educate recreation visitors to stay on designated trails, not use closed trails, and not build new undesignated trails
- Promote and expand the Forest Watch volunteer program
- Patrol for garbage, vandalism and other illegal activities
- Ensure that visitors adhere to current noise reduction laws
- Develop and install appropriate signage to guide recreational use and behaviors
- Continue developing a strong DNR partnership with the Clallam County Sheriff's Department

Objective C: Design, build and maintain Burnt Hill recreational facilities to DNR standards.

Strategies:

- Require all those involved, including volunteers, to meet DNR design, construction and maintenance standards

Objective D: Close undesignated and designated but un-adopted trails.

Strategies:

- Coordinate with Olympic Region state lands to close, where feasible within management needs, those road segments no longer designated as part of the recreational trail system
- Work with adoption volunteers for trail removal and forest restoration on closed trails in areas the volunteers are upgrading, building, and/or maintaining designated trails
- Seek and train additional volunteers for trail removal and forest restoration
- Adoption agreements not successfully met will result in closed facilities

Objective E: Rely primarily on donated labor, materials and equipment to enhance and maintain the recreation facilities; secondarily seek grant funding.

Strategies:

- Place all designated facilities under adoption agreements
- Provide training on safety, trail standards and methods, and expectations of volunteers for all those signing up for adoption agreements
- When necessary and appropriate seek additional resources, including grants, donations not associated with adoption agreements, and other volunteer activities such as Forest Watch

Objective F: Manage access to enhance recreation, to reduce garbage dumping and vandalism, and to reduce neighbor impacts such as night noise.

Strategies:

- Manage Burnt Hill recreation as a day-use only activity
- Use a gate to manage access
- Provide no parking at the day-use only gate during closed hours

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Objective G: Monitor the physical and environmental condition of the recreation facility to ensure that DNR standards are being met.

Strategies:

- Balance monitoring of changes in the landscape due to recreation with monitoring of changes due to management activities
- Monitor changes in recreational use patterns over time
- Achieve monitoring goals with outreach and educational activities when possible

Objective H: Create a Burnt Hill stewardship group that represents a broad spectrum of stakeholders to meet on a regular schedule and provide ideas and information to DNR regarding plan implementation.

Strategies:

- Develop a charter that outlines, at a minimum: the role and responsibilities of the stewardship group; methods for selecting and replacing members; meeting format and expectations; methods for sharing information about the stewardship group's work with other interested parties
- Seek active volunteer participation from stewardship group members in on-the-ground activities, including monitoring, maintenance, restoration, Forest Watch, garbage pickup, etc
- Solicit information and problem-solving ideas from the stewardship group as needed throughout the year
- Solicit input from the stewardship group during the annual review process

Objective I: Implement an annual review process to facilitate effective implementation of the Burnt Hill Recreational Trail Plan.

Strategies:

- Identify, document and review accomplishments of the year, work remaining, and process issues
- Review observed results and develop a work plan for the coming year
- Write a summary of the annual accomplishments and upcoming work plan